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## Via Electronic Mail

Mr. Christopher Libertelli Chief Legal Advisor, Chairman Powell Federal Communications Commission 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20554

Re:

Unbundled Access to Network Elements, WC Docket No. 04-313; Review of Section 251 Unbundling Obligations of Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers; CC Docket No. 01-338

Dear Mr. Libertelli:

On December 7, 2004, representatives of WorldNet Telecommunications, Inc. ("WorldNet") met with you regarding the implications of the above referenced docket on competitors and competition in Puerto Rico. During this meeting we discussed, among other things, the standards that the Commission could apply on a national basis to identify those areas where competitors are not impaired without access to interoffice transport.

During our discussion you suggested that one possibility available to the Commission could be to infer non-impairment in those wire centers with more than 40,000 business lines and we discussed how such a rule would affect the market in Puerto Rico. In relation to this, you asked whether WorldNet knew how many wire centers in Puerto Rico had more then 40,000 business lines. While WorldNet did not have this information during our meeting, we have now determined that Puerto Rico Telephone Company ("PRTC") has nineteen (19) wire centers rated as "Tariff Scale 1," which PRTC defines as including local exchange service areas with over 40,000 main working lines in service. A list of PRTC wire centers and the relevant page from PRTC's local tariff are attached. This is out of a total of eighty-seven wire centers in Puerto Rico. These wire centers are located in Puerto Rico's major urban centers. It must be noted that the number of wire centers that have more than 40,000 business lines is not clear from current records. It is likely that this number would be substantially smaller than nineteen.

While it may be reasonable in markets on the mainland to infer that competitors are not impaired without access to transport serving any wire centers with a business line density of

Mr. Christopher Libertelli December 8, 2004 Page 2

40,000 lines, WorldNet believes that it would be inappropriate to use this as the sole factor for determining whether transport should be made available in Puerto Rico. Doing so would have the effect of leaving competitors without any option other than to use PRTC tariffed services in many high-density wire centers.

This is because there are simply no competitive alternatives available in most of the high-density wire centers in Puerto Rico. Centennial is currently the only competitive carrier in Puerto Rico that has any interoffice transport and they currently only have facilities in eight (8) PRTC wire-centers. With regard to self-provisioning, there are a number of operational and economic hurdles in Puerto Rico that would act as an effective bar, even in wire centers with 40,000 business lines. First, the state and local bureaucratic processes necessary to obtain access to rights of way in Puerto Rico are extremely burdensome and time consuming. In fact, it took Centennial years just to get the municipal approvals necessary to construct its network. Second, some of the high-density wire centers are separated from other population centers by miles of rugged, undeveloped and mountainous terrain. It would simply not be cost effective to construct duplicative facilities the distances required to serve these wire centers.

For these reasons, WorldNet urges the Commission to use a combination of factors for identifying those wire centers where interoffice transport must be made available to competitors. One additional factor that surfaced during our conversation was whether a competitor had provisioned fiber-based collocation in a given wire center. WorldNet believes that it would be appropriate to use this as an additional factor for determining where transport alternatives actually exist.

Finally, WorldNet would like to remind the Commission that many parties have entered into commercial arrangements that touch on many of the issues presented in this proceeding. The Commission should remain mindful of this and use caution when drafting new rules to ensure that they do not expressly or impliedly supersede such commercial arrangements.

Respectfully submitted

Lawrence R. Freedman

Counsel for WorldNet Telecommunications, Inc.

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Attachments

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4	Caparra & Pueblo Viejo	1	Urban	273	277	706	707	749	774	775	781	782	783	792	793
5	Isla Verde	1	Urban	253	791										
6	Río Piedras (I)	1	Urban	281	294	754	756	758	765	766	767	771	777		
7	Río Piedras (II)	1	Urban	250	274	282	296	751	753	759	763	764	11/14/4/11/10/2001	773	
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Canceling Seventh Revision - Page E-1-1

### **BASIC SERVICES TARIFF SCHEDULE**

#### INDIVIDUAL LINE SERVICE

# SECTION 1 - LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE AREAS OF 40,001 MAIN STATIONS IN SERVICE AND OVER

### 1.1 Applicability

- 1.1.1 Applies to automatic exchanges comprising the San Juan Metro Area, to individual line business, individual line residential service, and P(A)BX trunks.
- 1.1.2 The San Juan Metro Area includes the following exchange areas: San Juan-Santurce, Río Piedras-Hato Rey-Trujillo Alto, Caparra, Cataño-Levittown, Bayamón, Guaynabo, Toa Baia, Isla Verde, and Carolina.
- 1.1.3 Applies to any local exchange service area with over 40,000 main working stations (M) in service.

### 1.2 Territory

1.2.1 Within the Base Rate Area of each Exchange Area.

### 1.3 Rates

- 1.3.1 The charge for Basic Rent does not include the Standard Set.
- 1.3.2 Calls within an exchange will be metered as one message unit. Inter exchange calls within the calling zone will be metered as two message units. Message units in excess of the allowance will be charged at \$0.13.

•	Monthly Charge				
	Basic Rent, Per Line	Message Units Allowance			
Business Main Station (Measured Rate)	\$ 23.05	85			
Business Main Line (Measured Rate)	36.65	85			
Residence Main Line (Measured Rate I)	9.25	70			
Residence Main Line (Measured Rate II)	16.35	160			
Residence Main Line (Flat Rate)	20.80	-			
Residence Main Station (Measured Rate I)	7.25	70			
Residence Main Station (Measured Rate II)	14.35	160			
Residence Main Station (Flat Rate)	18.80				
First Trunk Line (Measured Rate)	40.65	85			
Additional Trunk Line (Measured Rate)	28.60	-			
Group Hunting Features for Business, Residence and Trunk	10.00				
lines, per Group					

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Effective: June 7, 2004